

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 665

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Roy C. "Doc" Ellis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Roy C. "Doc" Ellis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Doc Ellis grew up in Knoxville but spent the majority of his weekends in Cumberland Gap with his grandfather, Dr. Chance, who practiced medicine for fifty-six years and who inspired Doc Ellis to choose the same profession; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eighteen, Dr. Ellis enlisted in the United States Navy, in which he served with valor and distinction for nine years as a med-tech, which helped put him through school; and

WHEREAS, upon the conclusion of his military service, Doc Ellis enrolled in pre-med school and served with acumen and alacrity as an employee at Middlesboro Hospital for three years; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from medical school, Dr. Ellis returned to Claiborne County and had practiced medicine in the area since 1962; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Doc Ellis developed an interest in Claiborne County education in the mid-1960s, during which time he worked to get the county's head start program initiated; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960s, Dr. Ellis began serving on the County Commission School Board, the position in which he served until his passing, with the exception of one four-year term, and he also briefly served as Chairman of the Board; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, Doc Ellis helped bring new schools and building changes to the county in the 1970s, bringing in H.Y., Livesay, TNT, and Springdale, and making additions to Claiborne County High School, Powell Valley High School, SMMS, Ellen Myers, and Forge Ridge; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of Dr. Ellis, every school in the county benefited from the school building program; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s, Doc Ellis went to Nashville, where he joined the Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, he served proudly in the Air Force for twelve years, during which time he became an Applied Surgeon, which further diversified his medical experience; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis practiced general medicine in Harrogate and served on the Claiborne County School Board for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, he was renowned in the community for his kind and giving spirit, attending ballgames and graduations, stitching up injuries and mending broken bones, and writing letters of recommendation; and

WHEREAS, he provided encouragement to community members during the tough times and could be counted on for a funny joke or a flu shot, and he had a way of making every person feel special; and

WHEREAS, Doc Ellis leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Roy C. "Doc" Ellis, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the loved ones of Dr. Ellis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.